REVIEW OF PARTICIPANTS RETURNS FILE (PRF) AGAINST PATS ANSWER FILE
This transmission (PATS I) will be compared against the **PATS ELF Answer File**. The comparison program checks each byte and prints out the fields that differ. The tax examiner will review the printout and will discuss any problems with you. Some fields will differ and are not considered incorrect, but others MUST AGREE EXACTLY. These fields are all SSNs, ATINs, EINs, ITINs, RTNs, account numbers, percentage and date fields, and the entity portion of the 1040 Family and ETD Forms 56, 2350, 2688 4868 and 9465. When these mis-compares are either accepted or corrected, you will pass PATS Testing.

Remember: The Tax Examiner will not run a "Compare" until there are no reject conditions for the test returns on the ACK file (with the exception of the forced reject of Test 11).

COMMUNICATIONS TEST FOR THE *e*-file SYSTEM

There are two primary EMS sites: Enterprise Computing Center at Martinsburg (ECC-MTB), (which hosts Kansas City and Memphis nodes) and Memphis (ECC-MEM), (which hosts Andover, Austin, and Philadelphia nodes). If you are a Software Developer/Transmitter and plan to transmit returns to more than one service center, you are only required to send a transmission to one node (your primary service center). You must then complete an *e*-file communications test by transmitting five returns in two same-day transmissions (three returns in one transmission and two in other). A Software Developer/Transmitter must pass the communications test with software using the asynchronous (ASC) protocol.

If you are a Preparer/Transmitter using accepted software, you must complete an error-free communications test by transmitting five returns in two same-day transmissions (three returns in one transmission and two in the other) to one EMS site. The communication test must reflect the types of returns you will be filing (i.e. if you will be transmitting all three types of Forms1040, your test should consist of at least one 1040, 1040A, and1040EZ). A Preparer/Transmitter must pass the communications test with software using the asynchronous (ASC) protocol.

A Software Developer who will not transmit need not perform a communications test for the ELF system.